

January 24, 2001

U. S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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Dear U. S. Food and Drug Administration:

Please grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Please stop the downed animal trade. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals initially.


Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

It is possible to move downed animals humanely; but they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains and these inhumane processes cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cows Disease), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,


Dr. Pat Wentz
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98P-0151

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